

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a cracked lacquer on a surface, said method comprising:

- a) applying ~~first~~ a liquid composition comprising a lacquer and a binder to the surface;
- b) applying ~~a~~ an aqueous second composition comprising an activator onto the first coat while the first coat is still in a liquid state;
- c) exposing the second composition to heat or air flow to initiate hardening.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the activator is a glaze.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the activator is a water-soluble acrylate.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the lacquer is water-soluble.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the lacquer ~~is~~ comprises a solvent.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the second composition is heated to a temperature above 90°C ~~over in~~ for about 5 seconds.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the second composition is exposed to an air flow of at least 0.4 bar.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of derivatives of natural oils; reaction products of unsaturated acids and alcohols;

reaction products of saturated acids and alcohols, synthetic resins of phenols, urea, melamine, acrylic acid, styrene, ketones, aldehydes, amines, silicon and terpenealhydrocarbons ~~terpealhydrocarbons~~; polyvinyl compounds; organometallic ~~organometalie~~ compounds; polymethane and polycarbamides; epoxy resins; nitrocellulose ~~nitrocellulox~~ and cellulose compounds; and rubber and rubber derivatives; and mixtures thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the surface is further treated with a soft lacquer.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the soft lacquer contains a fragrance.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the first composition has a pH in the range of about 7.8 to 8.0.

37. (New) A method of providing a surface having the feel and surface appearance of leather comprising:

- a) applying a first liquid composition comprising a lacquer and a binder to the surface;
- b) applying a second composition comprising an aqueous activator onto the first coat while the first coat is still in a liquid state;
- c) exposing the second composition to heat or air flow to initiate hardening, and
- d) coating the cured coated surface with a soft lacquer.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, where the soft lacquer contains an odorous substance.

39. (New) The method of claim 26, where the aqueous second composition further comprises a minor amount of an organic solvent.